

interested parties may become involved through the request of the Executive Secretary or the originator when it is determined that some or all of the information is also within their official cognizance.

(b) *Determination.* These parties shall respond in writing to the Executive Secretary of the Agency Release Panel with a mandatory unclassified finding, to the greatest extent possible, and an optional classified addendum. This finding shall agree to a declassification or, in specific and factual terms, explain the basis for continued classification including identification of the category of information, the harm to national security which could be expected to result from disclosure, and, if older than ten (10) years, the basis for the extension of classification time under §§ 1.6 and 3.4 of this Order. These parties shall also provide a statement as to whether or not there is any other statutory, common law, or Constitutional basis for withholding as required by § 6.1(c) of this Order.

(c) *Time.* The determination(s) shall be provided on a “first-in, first-out” basis with respect to all challenges pending under this section and shall be accomplished expeditiously taking into account the requirements of the authorized holder as well as the business requirements of the originator including their responsibilities under the Freedom of Information Act, the Privacy Act, or the mandatory declassification review provisions of this Order.

§ 1907.24 Designation of authority to hear challenges.

The Deputy Director for Administration has designated the Agency Release Panel and the Historical Records Policy Board, established pursuant to 32 CFR 1900.41, as the Agency authority to hear and decide challenges under these regulations.

§ 1907.25 Action on challenge.

(a) *Action by Agency Release Panel.* The Executive Secretary shall place challenges ready for adjudication on the agenda at the next occurring meeting of the Agency Release Panel. The Executive Secretary shall provide a summation memorandum for consider-

ation of the members; the complete package consisting of the challenge, the information at issue, and the findings of the originator and interested parties shall also be provided. The Agency Release Panel shall meet and decide challenges sitting as a committee of the whole. Decisions are by majority vote of those present at a meeting and shall be based on the written record and their deliberations; no personal appearances shall be permitted without the express permission of the Panel.

(b) *Action by Historical Records Policy Board.* In any cases of divided vote by the ARP, any member of that body is authorized to refer the request to the CIA Historical Records Policy Board which acts as the senior corporate board for the Agency. The record compiled (the request, the memoranda filed by the originator and interested parties, and the previous decision(s)) as well as any memorandum of law or policy the referent desires to be considered, shall be certified by the Executive Secretary of the Agency Release Panel and shall constitute the official record of the proceedings and must be included in any subsequent filings.

§ 1907.26 Notification of decision and prohibition on adverse action.

The Executive Secretary of the Agency Release Panel shall communicate the decision of the Agency to the authorized holder, the originator, and other interested parties within ten (10) days of the decision by the Panel or Board. That correspondence shall include a notice that no adverse action or retribution can be taken in regard to the challenge and that an appeal of the decision may be made to the Interagency Security Classification Appeals Panel (ISCAP) established pursuant to § 5.4 of this Order.

RIGHT OF APPEAL

§ 1907.31 Right of appeal.

A right of appeal is available to the ISCAP established pursuant to § 5.4 of this Order. Action by that body will be the subject of rules to be promulgated by the Information Security Oversight Office (ISOO).

PART 1908—PUBLIC REQUESTS FOR MANDATORY DECLASSIFICATION REVIEW OF CLASSIFIED INFORMATION PURSUANT TO § 3.6 OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 12958

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AUTHORITY: Executive Orders 12958, 60 FR 19825, 3 CFR 1996 Comp., p. 333–356 (or successor Orders).

SOURCE: 62 FR 32495, June 16, 1997, unless otherwise noted.

GENERAL

§ 1908.01 Authority and purpose.

(a) *Authority.* This part is issued under the authority of and in order to implement § 3.6 of Executive Order (E.O.) 12958 (or successor Orders); the CIA Information Act of 1984 (50 U.S.C. 431); sec. 102 of the National Security Act of 1947, as amended (50 U.S.C. 403); and sec. 6 of the CIA Act of 1949, as amended (5 U.S.C. 403g).

(b) *Purpose.* This part prescribes procedures, subject to limitations set forth below, for members of the public

to request a declassification review of information classified under the various provisions of this or predecessor Orders. Section 3.6 of E.O. 12958 and these regulations do not create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law by a party against the United States, its agencies, officers, or employees.

§ 1908.02 Definitions.

For purposes of this part, the following terms have the meanings as indicated:

(a) *Agency* or *CIA* means the United States Central Intelligence Agency acting through the CIA Information and Privacy Coordinator;

(b) *Days* means calendar days when the Agency is operating and specifically excludes Saturdays, Sundays, and legal public holidays. Three (3) days may be added to any time limit imposed on a requester by this part if responding by U.S. domestic mail; ten (10) days may be added if responding by international mail;

(c) *Control* means ownership or the authority of the CIA pursuant to Federal statute or privilege to regulate official or public access to records;

(d) *Coordinator* means the CIA Information and Privacy Coordinator who serves as the Agency manager of the information review and release program instituted under the mandatory declassification review provisions of Executive Order 12958;

(e) *Federal agency* means any executive department, military department, or other establishment or entity included in the definition of agency in 5 U.S.C. 552(f);

(f) *Information* means any knowledge that can be communicated or documentary material, regardless of its physical form that is owned by, produced by or for, or under the control of the United States Government; it does not include:

(1) Information within the scope of the CIA Information Act, or

(2) Information originated by the incumbent President, White House Staff, appointed committees, commissions or boards, or any entities within the Executive Office that solely advise and assist the incumbent President;